

1964



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CONFIDENTIAL

1081

File No. 1081

FO 277/269

Name of File—

CAY SAL

NO MINUTES TO BE WRITTEN HERE

RECORD OF WEEDING		
	INITIALS	DATE
2 YEARS		
5 YEARS (CONSULAR POSTS ONLY)	<u>gpa</u>	<u>9/10/68</u>
10 YEARS		

CLOSED
UNTIL

2001

LAST Year's File No. 1081/63

NEXT Year's File No. _____

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2

CONFIDENTIAL
TELEGRAM

(1081/64)

ROUTINE

Cypher/OTPT ~~code~~ ~~en~~ ~~clair~~

From:— HAVANA

To:— FOREIGN OFFICE.

Despatched 12.00 31/12

Received

No. 556 of December 30, 1964.

CONFIDENTIAL
ROUTINE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 556 of December 30, 1964. Repeated for information to Washington No. 157 and Governor Nassau Personal No. 34.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Cay Sal.

Since Roa had expressed appreciation of our preventing anti-Castro Cubans from using the Bahamas as a base for operations against this country, I pressed him hard about the Cay Sal prisoners. He apologised for the delay, and stated again categorically that a decision to allow these prisoners to go back to the Bahamas had been taken in principle by Castro himself. He said that the formalities necessary to translate this decision into practice took time. But he himself was visibly embarrassed, and agreed to speak to Castro again.

2. Meanwhile this Embassy is regularly visited by certain of the Cay Sal prisoners who have been released. They are becoming increasingly impatient. One of them has been told by the Ministry of the Interior that he may be needed at short notice.

3. Has the interest of H.M.G. been conveyed to Cuban Ambassador since U.K. election?

F.O. please pass.

WATSON.

LA

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

ANGUILLA CAY

I was visited today by the mother of Ricardo Lopez Cabrera, one of the prisoners who remain in Las Cabañas. She had been to see him in mid-December and said that his health was not good. She asked what developments had occurred. I told her that H.E. had spoken to Roa and that, while it still might take some time, we were moderately confident that the prisoners would be sent back to the Bahamas.

APP
... 19/1

Confidential

Minutes

ANGUILLA CAY

I was visited again today by Sr. Salicrup, who asked whether progress had been made. He repeated that he is fed up with waiting. He has bought a motor, and is ready to steal a boat and head off to the Bahamas during the night. He complained that, by being patient, he had already missed two good chances to escape. I told him that HE had not yet spoken to Roa, and asked him to be patient a while longer. We were hopeful, and precipitate action could only ruin things.

2. Sr. Salicrup asked why we were not tougher with the Cubans. He said that the Spanish Embassy had complained vigorously to the Cubans and had some Spanish-Cubans released from Las Cabanías. I explained that the case was not analogous. The ex-refugees were Cuban nationals, and we had to make careful progress. This progress should soon bear results. Sr. Salicrup left promising to wait a little longer.

APB:hts
28/xii

H. of S.

/ I sympathise..

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

I sympathize with his
impatience, but this man is a
foe - he may prejudice the
chances of the others of making
a break and getting caught
again. But usually he may be
right to some extent; we certainly
could push the Cubans more
often and perhaps a little
harder.

R. R. Asher
29/12

H.E.

I spoke to Riva on 30
December. See Tel 556 1560.

MW
5/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

1081/64

Anguila Cay

Originally 19 in
all; 5 still in
prison.

I was visited this morning by a cousin of Osmany Nodares, one of the nineteen refugees, who still remains in prison (there are four others). According to my visitor the five prisoners were in serious danger of being executed in the near future. He claimed that their lawyers had advised him to come to us and warn us of this possibility. Nodares had been taken away from Las Cabañas Prison a few days ago and had apparently been sent to Santa Clara. The cousin feared that he would be tried in Santa Clara, found guilty, and executed within twenty-four hours before anyone could do anything about it. The charges against them are the old ones, namely that they were agents of the C.I.A. and that they were indulging in bringing arms to Cuba to fight the revolution.

2. This may be just another rumour, but when H.E. speaks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about Anguila Cay, it might be helpful to draw attention to the plight of the five remaining prisoners. I told Nodares' cousin to inform the Embassy immediately he learned that the prisoners were to be tried.

A.D. Brighty

(A. D. Brighty)
December 22, 1964

H. J. G.

I feel that this story of executions must be a rumour. After Castro's assurance to H.N.G. in the summer, I cannot believe that he will bite off any of the prisoners, whatever else he may do.

E. Rasch

22/12

H.E. I agree with the H.N.G. But I will mention the prisoners to Roca

CONFIDENTIAL

EEA 22/12

MS 23/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Confidential

Minutes.

Anguila Cay

Señor Salicrup called again today. He had called at the appropriate office of MININT to ask about his personal documents and whether he should seek a passport or not, and had been told not to leave Havana over Christmas since he might be needed at short notice. Sr. Salicrup regarded this as a sign that the ex-prisoners would soon be allowed to leave.

2. He also said that one of the prisoners, Rene Rodriguez Esqui, wanted to ask that he should remain in Cuba and that his brother should be allowed to leave in his place. His brother is apparently serving a 30 yr. sentence in the Isle of Pines. Sr. Salicrup was afraid that this might mean a delay for the group as a whole. This matter

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

had

Minutes.

had not yet been put to the Cuban
authorities.

3. I promised to telephone Sr. Salicrú
when H.E. had spoken with the MRA,
and asked him to keep me informed
of any developments known to him.

APB Bright
21/xii

H. of Ch.

The affair seems to be
moving in the right direction -
but slowly. Perhaps we are to
get a Christmas amnesty?

CRashie
21/12

HE Perhaps. I hoped so
last Christmas!

MJ
22/12

APB
23/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

ANGUILA CAY

Señora Josafina ~~N~~odarse called today to say:-

- (i) when ^{she} they visited the prison on December 14, ~~they~~ heard from the prisoners that they were to be sent out of the country by the end of the month.
- (ii) A few days ago she received a telegram saying that the prisoners had been transferred to the Santa Clara prison.

I said that we had no further news.

Parah Hughes-Lewis
(S. Hughes-Lewis) (Miss)
December 18, 1964.

H.-O.-G.

2 separate minutes.

lea
... 2/12

H.E.

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes.

Anguilla Cay

Señor Salicrup called on me to-day to ask whether there had been any developments. I told him that we were still waiting for news, but were moderately optimistic. He said that he was getting increasingly impatient and unless the Cuban authorities soon gave their agreement to the ex-prisoners leaving, he seriously intended to make his escape (again) on his own. All his family are at present in the United States. I asked him to be patient and repeated Mr. Maud's earlier warning that such action might prejudice the position of the others.

2. Señor Salicrup also asked whether he ought now to apply for a passport since this process took around three weeks. He said that the other prisoners were in the same position as regards passports. I told him that I thought we would receive sufficient notice ~~of any exit~~ for him to be able to apply for and be granted a passport. It might however be worth checking on this point with the Cubans when we next speak to them officially on this subject.

A.D. Brighty

(A.D. Brighty)
December 14, 1964.

and he did not wish his
departure to be delayed
by formalities once permission
was given.

H.F.

Notes

Am 14/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

1081/69

Minutes.

ANGUILLA CAY

Señora Maria Antonio Rodriguez called on me on November 24 to tell me that the member of the Cuban Security authorities who has been responsible for keeping an eye on her since she came out of prison on December 28, 1963, told her ~~definitely~~ when he last called to check on her whereabouts, that he understood that the case was to be resolved finally in December. She asked whether this would apply to those who are still in prison and he told her that it would.

2. It therefore sounds as if the Cubans at least mean business, ~~while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs~~ particularly as it has been our impression that while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was prepared to be helpful, the Security forces were balking. In any case, we shall find out if there is anything in this shortly.

H. J. H. Maud

(H. J. H. Maud)
November 24, 1964

²³
H. J. H. Maud
Mr. Hitch

H. of C.

This sounds hopeful.

R. R. R.

" 25/11"

H. E. (C. R.)

good.

AW 4/12

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Confidential
Minutes.

Enter on x

1081

Augusta Cay

S. SALICRUP called on me yet again on Nov 17, in effort to ask whether I thought our negotiations had been fruit, or if he should try to get out of the country on his own (again!). Naturally I told him the former was the case, and that any illegal action on his part, even if successful, was prejudice to anyone else's position. He agreed to be Patient.

2. His present address is CORTINA #264, of Milagros y Pta. Catalina. His neighbor's telephone is ~~4~~ 4353.

JH. Shaw

19/12/1

H ✓ c

EEA 23/11

1081/64

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,
HAVANA.

November 10, 1964

Derick Ashe's letter to you of October 28 about the Cay Anguilla prisoners. At the end of my conversation with Roa this morning (reported in my telegram No. 45 Saving) I asked him about these prisoners. Just before my departure some two months ago I had received the Prime Minister's assurance that this question would be settled in the near future in a manner satisfactory to us. I had passed on this assurance to H.M.G. But the issue had not yet been settled.

2. Roa said that the Prime Minister thought it probable that I would raise this question and had authorised him to say that indeed the matter would be settled favourably, in accordance with his personal assurance. But it really was a difficult issue. When next he saw the Prime Minister he would say that I had formally raised the issue on my return. I asked Roa to assure Castro that this was not a matter which we were disposed to forget, especially in the light of his undertaking.

3. I have sent copies of this letter to the Ambassador at Washington and the Governor of the Bahamas.

(J.H.A. Watson)

R.M.K. Slater, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY
HAVANA

October 28 1964

081/64)

Would you please have another look at my letter (1081/64) of September 17 to you about the Cay Anguilla prisoners?

2. I am afraid that the Cuban's discomfort over their air service to Nassau interrupted my lobbying on this matter; the atmosphere after that was not very propitious for pressing for an act of grace and favour. Nor am I sure that the atmosphere even now is right. In the last few days I have raised the matter again with the chosen go-betweens, the Director and the Deputy Director of Protocol, mentioning particularly that I have still had no answer to my letter of September 17 to the former (a copy of which was enclosed with my letter of the same date to you). But I got no change, merely inquiries about the Labour Government's interest in the matter and the date of the Ambassador's return.

3. So it seems to me that the Cuban Government have either found this too intractable a problem to solve despite their reassuring message to the Ambassador just before he left on leave and are hoping that the Labour Government will not press it in the way that their predecessors did; or else are saving up some magnanimous gesture for the Ambassador's return. My own guess, I am afraid, is the former; but if I am wrong, we should know fairly soon, as the Ambassador gets back here next week.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Iain Sutherland at Washington and to the Governor of the Bahamas at Nassau.

(D. R. Ashe)

R. M. K. Slater Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

September 17, 1964

CONFIDENTIAL

1 saving

Would you please have a look at the Ambassador's telegram No. 42/ of August 28 about the Cay Anguilla prisoners? After giving the Cubans a few days' grace I renewed our pressure over this issue, reminding the Deputy Director of Protocol on September 9 and the Director of Protocol on September 11 that Her Majesty's Government were now waiting to know the details of the "favourable solution" which the Cuban Government had in mind. They both seemed surprised that Dr. Castro's reassurance had not filled the breach for longer, but the Director of Protocol in particular made a note in his little book and promised to speak to the Prime Minister at the first opportunity.

2. By chance I myself then had an opportunity to jog Castro's memory when I was pushed up to talk to him at the Mexican Ambassador's reception on September 16. I told him that, grateful as they had been for his personal message of reassurance, Her Majesty's Government were now wondering exactly what kind of solution he intended to propose. He sheered off the subject quickly, possibly because we had a mass of other people pressing all around us. But at least he now knows that his rather vague assurance cannot hold the position much longer and that we are pressing to get down to the hard details of a solution. And to make sure that the wheels keep turning, I have today written to the Director of Protocol; a copy of my letter is attached.

3. I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to Iain Sutherland at Washington and the Governor of the Bahamas at Nassau.

(D.R. Ashe)

R.M.K. Slater, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

1081/64

September 17, 1964

You will remember that I mentioned to you at the Ceylonese Ambassador's dinner party on September 11 that, grateful though my Government were for your Prime Minister's personal assurance conveyed to them through my Ambassador that a favourable solution would shortly be found to the problem of the Cay Anguilla prisoners, they were now awaiting details of the solution proposed. I referred to this matter obliquely during my short conversation with the Prime Minister at the Mexican Ambassador's reception last night, but had the impression that he did not fully understand what I meant. I did not want to be more specific on such a public occasion and did not therefore pursue the matter. But May I take this opportunity of reminding you that my Ambassador is now in London engaged in consultations with my Government and that he will be expected to give some account of the solution which your Government have in mind? And may I also therefore count on your co-operation in bringing this matter to the attention of the Prime Minister with a view to reaching a final solution soon?

(D.R. Ashe)

Excmo. Senor Roberto Melendez Diaz,
Director of Protocol,
Havana.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

Anguilla Cay

The father and a friend of
GREGORIO FERNANDEZ HERNANDEZ
called today to find out the
form. They were also anxious to
know whether we had recorded
the prisoner's name correctly. I
have made a note in our
form No. 1 of Jan 10.

JH Mann
15 Sept

H M/R
Mr H M/R

I told the Deputy Director of
Protocol, Señor Perez Hernandez, at
the Bulgarian reception on September
9 and the Director of Protocol,
Señor Hernandez Diaz, at the
Ceylonese Ambassador's dinner on
/ September

Minutes.

September 11 that we expected an early decision about this and that Doctor Castro's reassuring message to H.T.G. through the Ambassador was just about time-expired. They seemed surprised at the short life of the message, but Señor Nizkor asked ~~me~~ what my deadline was; I chose the date of the prorogation of Parliament for want of anything better and said I thought that this would take place on September 15. Actually it has now been fixed for September 25, so I suppose the Cubans may consider that they have ten days' grace. But Señor Nizkor made a note in his little book and promised to tell Doctor Castro.

2. Please press the point when you get the chance - I will too.

EEA 15/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Am
16/9
Mr. Nizkor
Mr. Hilda

SAVING

CONFIDENTIAL
TELEGRAM

1081

Cypher code en clair

From:—

HAVANA

To:—

FOREIGN OFFICE

Despatched

Received

No. 42 of August 28, 1964

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 42 Saving, repeated to Washington No. 42 Saving and Governor of the Bahamas (personal) Saving No. 10.

Rennie's letter of August 7.

ANGUILLA CAY

I have pressed this issue at all levels. Finally at Rca's suggestion I sent him a memorandum restating H.M.G.'s demands and asking him to get Castro to give me a favourable decision to take home on leave.

2. A few hours before my departure I received a message from Castro asking me to give my Government his personal assurance that the issue of these prisoners would be solved in the near future in a manner satisfactory to H.M.G., and that he was now studying ways and means.

3. My impression is that this is intended to be a decisive commitment to allow those who wish to leave to do so. But our request has created real difficulties for this régime. I have asked Ashe to maintain the pressure & until we get out those who wish to leave.

4. You will remember that we told the Cubans we would try to keep publicity to a minimum. When we learn Castro's "ways and means" we should no doubt inform the State Department of the position, for their own information, and remind them of the detailed arrangements described in your telegram No. 2509 of February 14 to Washington and connected telegrams. I presume these arrangements still stand?

CONFIDENTIAL

1081
Agosto 19, 1964

Durante la entrevista que tan amablemente hubo usted de concederme en la mañana de hoy, acordamos que sería conveniente que le expusiese por escrito nuestro deseo de dar una solución al incidente ocurrido en Cayo Anguila el día 13 de agosto del pasado año. Con sumo gusto acompaño a la presente un Aide Memoire en este sentido.

Recordará usted que fué precisamente a los pocos días de haber asumido mi cargo como Embajador Británico en Cuba que tuve oportunidad de presentar el caso a su consideración, habiendo ya transcurrido un año desde la fecha en que ocurrió el incidente y casi un año desde que comenzamos a tratar sobre el mismo.

Como usted sabe, el día 27 de los corrientes embarcaré hacia el Reino Unido y tendré que hacer un recuento a mi Gobierno de las actuales relaciones Anglo-Cubanas. El caso en cuestión es posiblemente el asunto de más seriedad pendiente entre nuestros dos países y tengo la seguridad que a través de su Embajador en Londres sabrá usted la importancia que dá al mismo el Gobierno de Su Majestad. A la vez, representa la única reclamación de carácter grave que he tenido el deber hacerle durante este año. Confío, por lo tanto, que hará usted todo lo que esté a su alcance por consultar el caso con el Primer Ministro, quien está familiarizado con todos los pormenores, de manera que cuando regrese al Reino Unido la semana próxima pueda ser portador de una decisión favorable.

J. A. Watson

Su Excelencia, Dr. Raúl Roa García,
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores,
La Habana.

AIDE MEMOIRE
INCIDENTE DE CAYO ANGUILA

Más de un año ha transcurrido desde el día 13 de Agosto de 1963 cuando tuvo lugar una incursión dentro de territorio británico en las Islas Bahamas por fuerzas armadas del Gobierno de Cuba. Las circunstancias de este incidente, como resultado del cual 19 ciudadanos cubanos fueron traídos a Cuba, se detallan en la Nota de esta Embajada No. 260 del 21 de Agosto de 1963 al Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. El Ministerio dió respuesta a la Nota de la Embajada en su Nota No. 1095 del 10 de Septiembre. El día 4 de Octubre, esta Embajada solicitó nuevamente al Gobierno de Cuba la devolución a territorio británico de los 19 prisioneros en cuestión. Durante el mes de Diciembre de 1963, 14 de dichos prisioneros fueron puestos en libertad, aunque la Embajada fué informada sobre el particular con bastante demora, y a juzgar por las distintas solicitudes formuladas a la Embajada por familiares de algunos de los prisioneros, 5 de ellos aparentemente continúan en prisión.

La solicitud del Gobierno Británico ha sido repetida en diferentes ocasiones por el Jefe de esta Misión Diplomática durante conversaciones con el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y con el propio Primer Ministro. El Embajador de Cuba en Londres indudablemente debe haber comunicado a su Gobierno la importancia que dá al caso el Gobierno de Su Majestad Británica. Sin embargo, el asunto continúa pendiente de solución.

Es política del Gobierno de Su Majestad Británica el impedir la entrada ilegal a su territorio y aguas territoriales. En este sentido, el Gobierno de Su Majestad ha reforzado sus fuerzas armadas a las ordenes del Gobernador de las Bahamas con el fin de detectar la entrada ilegal desde cualquier lugar. Se recordará que, como resultado de estas medidas, las actividades ilegales de Manolo Ray, entre otros, fueron impedidas, y esta Embajada ha tenido oportunidad de prevenir al Gobierno de Cuba sobre posibles actividades hostiles que se estaban planeando en el area de las Islas Bahamas.

El Gobierno de Su Majestad Británica solicita encarecidamente del Gobierno de Cuba se conceda a los 19 ciudadanos cubanos interesados, tanto a los que continúan en prisión como a aquellos que han sido libertados, una oportunidad inmediata para abandonar el país, si es este su deseo. El Gobierno de Su Majestad no tiene interés en dar publicidad a cualquier arreglo que pudiese hacerse con el fin de que estas personas se dirijan a las Bahamas; muy por el contrario, confía que el asunto pueda tratarse con la mayor discreción posible.

La Habana, Agosto 19, 1964.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

I spoke with some emphasis to Sr. Rodriguez Camps last night about this. I said I really must have an answer before I went on leave in ten days time. I suggested writing to the Prime Minister; but Rodriguez asked me to let him have another shot at getting an answer from the Prime Minister without my writing.

2. I will keep badgering those concerned on this issue.

RW.

(J.H.A. Watson)
August 18, 1964

1. H.O.C. *REA 19/8*
2. enter ✓ (Urgent)
3. H.E. again

See new H.E. letter and aide-memoire to Minister of P.A. of today's date.

*Mitf
19/8*

Reg: pl. attach pps

H.E.

REA 20/8

CONFIDENTIAL

1081



FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

August 7, 1964.

(AM 1016/21)
PERSONAL

Dear Adam,

We do not seem to be making progress on the Anguilla Cay prisoners. It is almost a year now since they were taken by the Cubans and all we have secured is the setting at liberty of some of them in Havana and a series of statements by Cuban officials that it would be a good thing if the matter were settled.

2. I note from your letter 1081/64 of May 29 that Roa said that Castro was handling it himself. Perhaps you were able to raise it with him during one of your recent talks? At all events, I should be grateful for your views on what we can do to get things moving. I asked the Cuban Ambassador again a few days ago whether he had heard any more and he said he had not, but that he was quite sure that this was a matter which the Cuban Prime Minister would choose to handle directly with you.

Yours ever

J.O. Rennie

(J.O. Rennie)

J.H.A. Watson, Esq., C.M.G.,
British Embassy,
HAVANA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes.

ANGUILA CAY

SENORA MARIA ANTONIA RODRIGUEZ CASTILLA, wife of Israel Rojas Delgada, who gives her present address as Calle 15, no. 503, apartment 2, Vedado, between E and D (telephone 32-57-44) called on August 14 to see if we had any further news. She has often called before and I gave her the usual answer.

2. I do not know if there has been any sign of the promised answer from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

HJH Maud

(H.J.H. Maud)
August 17, 1964

H. of C.

Mr. Hitch

Nothing from the Ministry yet, but the Ambassador is pressing the Minister himself about it at this moment.

*REA
... 19/8*

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

CAY SAL PRISONERS

Please see my minute of April 17 about Mr. Osmani Nodarse Gonzalez.

2. Mr. Alfredo Nodarse called on August 14 to say that it was the anniversary of the incident at Anguilla Cay and to press for action. He became quite heated, but I stuck to the line that the matter was still under confidential discussion with the Cuban Government, and that there was no point in his continuing to come to the Embassy when I had on several occasions promised to get in touch with him as soon as there were any developments.

3. This visit underlines the obvious point: that we will continue to be under pressure from the relatives of the men still in gaol, whatever success the Cubans have in rehabilitating the remainder to the point perhaps when they no longer wish to leave the country.

B. Hitch
(B. Hitch)

August 17 1964

Hgc.

I think that the time really has come for us to press the Cubans on this subject. They are simply playing us along, presumably in the belief that our representations are only for the record and that we do not really care what happens to these people. Maybe they are right, of course. But in that case we ought to act the position straight in our own minds..

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

minds at least. logically
this means that in the
end we shall totally drop
the case.

ERashu
.. 17/4

HE
✓

Now see the Ambassador's
minutes of August 18 and his
his letter of August 19 to the
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ELA
... 20/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

Sr. NARCISO SALICRUP

[This is the correct name of the man variously named in earlier minutes].

He called on July 31 to find out if there were further developments. I was careful to say that discussions were continuing but that I had nothing definite to add to our earlier comments.

2. H. G. C. informed.

HSC
31 July

x

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

CAYO ANGUILLA

Señor Sal y Cruz called on July 14 with the following story.

2. Yesterday, July 13, he was released after eight days in prison. He had been arrested on Santa Maria beach by a Security Officer who recognised him from his earlier time in prison in connexion with Cayo Anguilla. No explanation was given then or at any time for his arrest which was explained simply as "on suspicion". He was kept for eight days in the prison of Villa Marita.

3. Señor Sal y Cruz was very shaken by this incident and told me that he has been in an acutely nervous state and unable to sleep since he was released from prison. One of the things which affected him most was the fact that none of his friends, nor of course anyone in this Embassy, had any idea about his arrest. The incident could therefore be repeated at any time, though, since his recent release may have owed something to this Embassy's interest in him and his case, another arrest may be less likely than he thinks. If he is arrested again he will send members of his family to tell us.

4. I think this is quite important. One knows that arbitrary arrest is a familiar occurrence in contemporary Cuba; the circumstances of this incident show that the Cayo Anguilla ex-prisoners are particularly liable to it, having been the subjects of considerable publicity and from the length of time they spent in prison. Since we have made clear our official interest in these men to the Cuban Government I do not see how we could avoid getting involved if we came to know about any repetition of this incident. I think it would be worth making this point to the Cuban Government when we next discuss Cayo Anguilla prisoners, perhaps by saying to the Ministry that though we realise they have no control or influence over the internal security forces in Cuba the recurrence of such incidents would certainly cause unpleasantness between us and the Ministry and would further aggravate the solution of this long outstanding problem; there is therefore everything to be said for clearing it up quickly.

H.J.H. Maud
(H.J.H. Maud)
July 14, 1964

H. of C.

H.F.

E. Rasmussen

/ Castro

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

Castro made it clear to me at the Queen's Birthday Party that he did not want to speak about this subject in front of other people, but that he was aware of H.M.G.'s continuing interest.

2. When he took me out on July 14 he did not raise this subject. As he had a number of other significant things to say, I did not interrupt him to raise it.

3. I had taken the opportunity to speak to the Deputy Minister, Senor Rodriguez Camps, before dinner at my house on July 8. I spoke to Senor Rodriguez again on July 17, explaining that I had not wished to interrupt the Prime Minister, but that the subject remained unresolved and one of continuing concern to H.M.G. Senor Rodriguez said that this matter was being actively studied, and he really did expect that an answer would be given us at any time. I reminded the Deputy Minister that we had now been waiting for some months.

hsc

(J.H.A. Watson)
July 20, 1964

I also mentioned it to Senor Montenegro a few days ago; this also produced an assurance that a reply was imminent. And I believe Mr. Hitch got the same or fair words from him shortly before that.

lea
... 2/7

Did not this man see me about 3 weeks ago, or am I mistaken. There was a minute

Mr. Hitch

[Mr. Hand]

Regy

July 21/5

See

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Confidential

Minutes.

See now my minutes of March 10 and July 6. I really believe this is the same man despite orthographical variants (SALG CRUZO, SAL Y CRUZ). If so, he was not in prison on July 6, and must have been arrested virtually as he left the Embassy; otherwise his story of 8 days inside is an exaggeration.

2. While he goes ~~on~~ around talking about getting out of Cuba illegally, it is not surprising that he should be arrested when he goes near a beach. But that in no way detracts from Mr. Mandel's p 4, which I agree with with one exception: that it might not be tactful to tell the

(M.F.A.)

Minutes.

MFA they have no influence over the security authorities.

2. I did not have precisely the conversation with Sr. Montenegro which Hoff C. suggests above, but I have several times mentioned the subject with MFA (coordinated of course with Hoff approaches)

Blitz
22/7

Mr. Rand

Hoff C. again

Yes, "influence over" was wrong;
"responsibility for the acts of" would be better. But the time is already in May.

H. Rand

22/7.

Yes, but in the meanwhile let us see what the promised reply amounts to. It might settle the matter once & for all. LLA 22/7

Blitz
23/7.

24/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

*Minutes*Cay Sal Prisoners

fixed

Please see my minute of March 10 about Mr. Narciso Sale Cruz. He called again this morning to ask whether there was any possibility of our getting him out of Cuba. He was still in difficulties about employment, and wished to join his family in Miami. Preparations for a trial seem to be continuing, Security Agents had visited his house recently and tried to have him sign a statement to be used as one of the documents in the trial. He had refused.

2. He told me in confidence that if it did not look as if we could get him out by the end of the year, he intended to have another go illegally. I told him that this had nothing to do with us, but if he were discovered by the Cuban authorities making such plans, he must be quite sure that this Embassy could not help him in any way to escape the consequences.

3. Without revealing any details, I told Mr. Cruz that there was still hope. (If ever we get to the stage of abandoning hope, I feel we ought to let such people know; but I can imagine the situation where demands merely fizzle out without our being able to say we have dropped them.)

B. Hitch

(B. Hitch)
July 6, 1964.

1482. eea 7/7.

1482. 7/7

*X 1482
8/7*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes.

Can See Prisoners

According to the file, there have been no developments since you spoke to the Head of the West European Department in May. So a further word will be necessary. Unless this means leaving action too late, your dinner party on July 8 might be the best opportunity.

R. Rasmussen
2/7

~~HE~~ I took the opportunity of a private luncheon with Sr. Rodriguez Camps to raise the question again with him. I will speak again on 8 July.

Dr 2/7

EEA

Mr. H. H. H. 2/7

Mr. H. H. H. 4/7
B. H. on July 7.

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE
(1081/64)

TELEGRAM

Cypher ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~code~~ ~~in clear~~

From:— FOREIGN OFFICE

To:— HAVANA

Despatched

Received

No. 390 of July 1, 1964

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Havana, telegram No. 390 of July 1,
repeated Saving to Washington.

Your letter 1081/64 of May 29 to Rennie.

Have you yet received a reply? If not, please
remind the Foreign Minister of our continuing
interest in having this problem resolved.

SOSFA

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Confidential

Minutes.

Can See prisoners

Enter

8

X

1081

Sra Maria Antonia Rodriguez called on June 5 (wife of Delgado) to find out if there were any developments. I told her that discussions were continuing, and asked her to come back only if she heard of any definite developments.

2. Her only news was that her husband had been moved to another part of La Cabañas prison, one from which several men had been taken out and executed. She feared that this was a bad sign, and she may well be right.

W. H. H. 6/6

W. H. H. 8 June

BRITISH EMBASSY,
HAVANA.

1021/64

May 19, 1964

RESTRICTED

Thank you for your telegram No. 331 about the Cay Sal prisoners.

2. I mentioned this to Roa on May 12, at the end of the conversation reported in my letter 10218 of May 12. He said that this matter was handled by the Prime Minister and that it was very desirable to get it settled.

3. On receipt of your telegram I spoke to the Head of the West European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He said that the Cuban Ambassador had reported by telegram that you had raised the subject with him again on May 25. But they had not had the follow-up letter. He hoped to give me some answer in the near future.

(J.H.A. Watson)

H.O. Rennie, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

(1081/64)

TELEGRAM

ROUTINE

Cypher ~~code xxxxxxxx~~

From:— FOREIGN OFFICE

To:— HAVANA

Despatched 02.15 GMT

Received 08.30 local

No. 331 of May 28, 1964

Addressed to Havana, telegram No. 331 of May 28, repeated saving to Washington.

My telegram No. 261.

Rennie asked the Cuban Ambassador on May 25 whether he had yet received a reply about Anguilla Cay. The Ambassador said that he had not, although he had recommended the tidying up of this matter at the earliest opportunity.

2. Provided you see no objection, please follow this up with a reminder to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SOSFA

CONFIDENTIAL

(1081/64)

TELEGRAM.

PRIORITY

Cypher ~~code xxxxxx en clair~~*From* :— FOREIGN OFFICE*To* :— HAVANA

Despatched

Received

No. 261 of April 22, 1964

Addressed to Havana, telegram No. 261 of April 22, repeated saving to Washington.

Your letter 1081/64 of March 26th to Slater.

Rennie asked the Cuban Ambassador to call on April 21st and explained to him our desire that this irritant to Anglo-Cuban relations should be removed by the return of the prisoners to our jurisdiction. The Ambassador said he would report this at once to his Government and was sure that it would be quickly drawn to Dr. Castro's attention. He believed the most likely outcome would be that you would receive an answer from Castro or the Cuban Minister for Foreign Affairs.

SOSFA

Restricted

Minutes

1081

3

CAY SAL PRISONERS (FEBRUARY 1964)

A group of some six relatives of the following prisoners called on me recently:

Agustino Vizcaino Pino
Domingo Martinez Cardenas
Armando Morales Pascual
Juan Morales Pascual
Rafael Santana.

2. Their case is similar to the Ovido case about which there was correspondence about a month ago. The spokesman for the relations claimed that all these five men who were still in prison had been fishing within a few yards of the lighthouse on Cay Sal when they were arrested on or around February 13. Further discussion made it reasonably clear that they were referring to the same incident as that which took place between February 21 and 23, 1963. I reiterated the usual answer that we had made an investigation and had no evidence on which to make a demarche to the Cuban Government. The spokesman claimed, that although there had yet been no trial, the prosecution suggested that the British Embassy might help them collect evidence.

3. This seems another case of the Anguilla Cay incident of August 1963 raising false hopes that we might intervene in the quite different circumstances of the incident of February 1963. I was forced to dismiss the delegation in terms discouraging enough to deter them (I hope) from calling again.

B. Hitch

(B. Hitch)
April 22, 1964.

HE AW 23/4
HMC 11/23/4

Mr. P. 23/4

Enter max

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

CAY SAL PRISONERS

Further to my minute (flagged) of March 14 about Mr. Osmani Nodarse Gonzales.

2. Mr. Alfredo Nodarse called today together with the prisoner's father, who I had not met before. The father told me that when he called at Cabañas Prison on April 1, his son was not there. The regular monthly visiting day came up yesterday, when the authorities told him that his son had been transferred to the G.2 headquarters at Matanzas, and that he could visit him there. This he did, and had come immediately to this Embassy in accordance with our mutual understanding that each side would report any developments to the other. The father expressed the usual fear in these cases that the G.2. interest in the case was an ominous sign and that their son might be shot. He had no news of a new trial.

3. I had to tell him that there were no new developments on our side, though we were keeping the case under consideration etc.

4. We must hope that the next bag (of April 23) will bring us a reply to Y.E.'s letter to Mr. Slater of March 26. I doubt whether any useful purpose will be served by telegraphing this latest development.

[Signature]

(B. Hitch)

April 17, 1964

H.E. — has seen

→ H.M.C. *TDB*

Mr. Maud

Mr 21/4

I agree with para 4, alas.

Mr 18/4

I have since had (today) a second visit from the wife of Ricardo López Cabrera.

[Signature]
29/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,
HAVANA.

1081/64

April 15, 1964.

Thank you for your letter 1821/64 of March 25 to Paul Scott requesting information about three of the Cubans abducted from Anguilla Cay.

2. As you will see from paragraph 2 of our Saving telegram No. 1 of January 10, all three of these Cubans are at liberty and we are therefore able to invite them to call at the Embassy and supply us with this information (unless the Cuban Government's efforts at rehabilitation have been successful and they no longer wish to leave).
3. However, there is still much doubt how this whole problem is to be resolved, and we consider it would be dangerous to raise false hopes. We therefore propose to do nothing until we have had a reply to the Ambassador's letter to Slater of March 26 (not to the Governor of the Bahamas).
4. In reply to your paragraph 3, the Ambassador's letter may be taken as the only new development since Foreign Office telegram No. 146 of March 4. The relatives of the five Cubans still in prison call fairly frequently at the Embassy, despite our attempts to persuade them to come only when there is a new development to report. In spite of rumours to the contrary, the trial of these men still seems to be suspended, though some of them seem to be taken at intervals from Cabanas prison to the G.2 headquarters for interrogation.
5. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

(B. Hitch)

I.J.M. Sutherland Esq.,
WASHINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Minutes

CAY SAL PRISONERS: TWO LETTERS

Until it is more certain that we still stand a chance of getting these prisoners out of Cuba, I am reluctant to invite the three persons named in Mr. Sutherland's letter of March 25 to the Embassy, as this would raise false hopes. They are, incidentally, all among the 11 adults released on Christmas Eve. Draft to Mr. Sutherland herewith.

2. Incidentally, paragraph 3 of Mr. Sutherland's letter of April 6 contains the rather remarkable statement "We confirm that the demand by H.M.G. for their return (of the prisoners) contained in your original note is still outstanding and that representations have been renewed since". I am unable to understand this, but I do not think it is worth making a fuss.

B. Hitch
(B. Hitch)

April 14, 1964

HAE

HTC

Mr. Sutherland

a.a.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

*it. to
enquiries?*

*Yes, I expect so
Bis*



1081

CONFIDENTIAL

BY AIR BAG
(1821/64)

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 6, 1964.

Br. Carter
Mr. Nink
BH.
14/4

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your letter 1081/64 of March 3 about an enquiry from the Consul-General at Philadelphia about the Cay Sal prisoners.

2. I shall not bother you with the details but it has transpired that the friend about whom Miss Hart of Levittown made the enquiries was not even a Cuban but an Israeli by the name of David Himmelman who told her that he was going to Cuba and has since disappeared.

3. The Embassy continues to receive periodic queries about the people who were in fact abducted from Cay Sal, although it is now some time since Ashmann has been after us. We confirm that the demand by H.M.G. for their return contained in your original note is still outstanding and that representations have been renewed since, but have been careful to avoid giving the impression that there is any prospect of an early departure from Cuba by those concerned. In view of Mr. Watson's letter 1081/64 of March 26 to Slater we must clearly continue to take this line.

4. I am copying this letter to Michael Brown in American Department and to H.M. Consul, Miami.

Yours sincerely,
Iin.

(I.J.M. Sutherland)

B. Hitch, Esq.,
HAVANA.

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

BY AIR BAG

(1821/64)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 25, 1964.

2 PPS

Dear Paul,

The Office of the Co-ordinator for Cuban Affairs at the State Department has now informed me that the U.S. Immigration authorities have completed a security check of the names of the Cubans abducted from Anguilla Cay which were listed in Havana telegram No. 1 Saving of January 10. They have cleared all but three of those listed. The three individuals about whom they require further information are:-

Rene Rodriguez Esquia

Jose Augusto Hernandez Arena

Maria Antonia Rodriguez Castillo

They would like to know in each of these cases:-

- (a) date and place of birth
- (b) places of residence in Cuba during the past 5 years
- (c) details of any travel outside Cuba

The immigration authorities state that they have no advance information against these three people, but merely require additional information in order to establish positive identification. "Rodriguez" and "Hernandez" are very common names. If and when the Cuban authorities agree to let the prisoners go (or earlier if it is possible) could you please let us have this information so that the process of issuing visas in Nassau may be accelerated?

2. As regards the others, the U.S. authorities cannot give an absolute guarantee that visas will be issued. There is still the chance that they might be rejected on grounds of

health/

P.H. Scott, Esq.,
British Embassy,
HAVANA.

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

health (cf paragraph 1 of Washington telegram No. 627 of February 13). But there will be no objections on security grounds. The U.S. Consul General in Nassau has been informed.

3. The State Department also enquired what the present prospects are for getting the prisoners out. Have there been any developments since Foreign Office telegram No. 146 of March 4 to you?

4. I am copying this letter to Michael Brown in American Department and (on a personal basis) to the Governor of the Bahamas.

Yours ever,

Ijm.

(I.J.M. Sutherland)

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

1081/64

BRITISH EMBASSY,
Havana.

March 26, 1964

I am afraid that we have run into difficulties at this end about getting the Cay Sal prisoners out of Cuba.

Acting on the authority in your telegram No.146 I have spoken to both the Head of the Western European Department and a member of the (here very influential) Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both have told me that getting these people out of Cuba presented a difficult problem. The Prime Minister had promised me that all or most of these people would be let out of gaol but he did not really promise that they would leave Cuba. In any case there were difficulties about letting them out on the charter service, which would mean they jumped the long queue of people who had been waiting for months to leave Cuba by more regular means. Moreover, were HMG really still much interested in this question? I explained that the Prime Minister clearly understood my point that we wanted all these people to go back to the Bahamas. I understood him to say that he hoped to arrange this. These people were in no way to be compared to Cuban citizens who wished to emigrate. They had been taken from the Bahamas by the armed forces of the Cuban Government and should be allowed to return. In order to avoid any misunderstanding of this issue I was quite willing to have these people, or such of them as wished to go, turned over formally to me; and I would then make arrangements to return them to the Bahamas under the charge of the Embassy. Though I have received expressions of goodwill and a desire to help, the matter remains stuck.

If I may suggest it, I think the best course now is for you or some other highly placed official, to have the Cuban Ambassador round and explain to him the interest of Ministers in this matter, and our belief that it is a relic of the past which will nevertheless weigh heavily on Anglo-Cuban relations until it is cleared up. A push from your end might help to get things moving again. If a junior Minister were prepared to speak in this way, the effect would be correspondingly greater. It is not for me to assess just how much importance attaches to this problem.

R. M. K. Slater, Esq., CMG.,
Foreign Office,
London, SW1.

/It will..

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

It will have occurred to you that one major factor making for difficulty in this matter is the failure so far of the Cubans to obtain any significant response to their approach to Shell.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Sutherland in Washington.

(J.H.A.Watson)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

1081/64

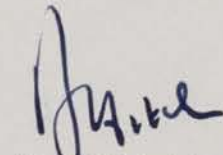
CAY SAL PRISONERS

The wife and mother of Ricardo López Cabrera called this morning to inform me that he had been transferred from Cabañas prison to the G.2 headquarters in Vibora, where he was incomunicado. The relatives regard this as

(a) a possible prelude to the death sentence, and, or

(b) an attempt to separate this case from that of the other four Cay Sal people still in prison on the grounds that he was the only one whose offence was leaving Cuba illegally.

2. This development might be a good lead in to Y.E.'s request for FO action.



(B. Hitch)
March 25, 1964.

HE
→

Letter to the States: but without a
lead-in. SW 26/3.

With H.E.'s letter please

Spencer
31/3

Long

Sean

X 7/11
31/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

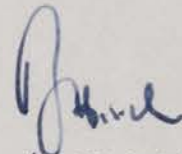
1081/64

Cay Sal Prisoners

Further to H.M.Consul's minute of November 13 1963 on 1081/63 (flagged) Mr. Alfredo Miguel Nodarse Gloria 471 (Bajos) tel.54653, and Mrs. Josefina Nodarse 8va , 12 (Reparto Casino Deportivo tel. 404408, called on Mr. Maud and myself yesterday. They are brother and sister, and Mr. Osmani Nodarse Gonzalez, one of the Cay Sal prisoners still detained in Cabana prison, is their nephew. Mr. Nodarse's mother and father live in Sagua la Grande.

2. They explained that they had sent a petition to the Queen about the case and had come to ask whether there was news. In fact I see that H.M.C. (Mr. Pethybridge) had decided that the time was not ripe to forward a petition and had told them so at the time; no further action is therefore required. Mr. Maud and I gave the visitors the customary reply that confidential discussions were still in progress with the Cuban government.

3. This is the third or fourth of a new wave of Cay Sal visitors; there are minutes about each visit.



(B.Hitch)

March 14, 1964

Mr. Maud
H.M.C. *BF* 16/3
✓
20 3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

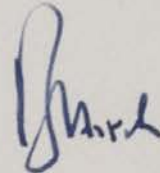
*Minutes.*CAY SAL PRISONERS

Mr. Maud and I received a visit yesterday from Mr. Narciso Sale Cruz and his sister-in-law Mrs. Basilia Delgado. Mr. Sale's address is Churruca 370, Cerro.

2. Mr. Sale is one of the Cay Sal prisoners who were put at liberty on December 24 last year. He said he was being cold-shouldered at his former place of employment, the Banco Nacional, and did not wish to seek any kind of work while there was still hope of getting out of Cuba. I told him we were still trying for a solution.

3. His sister-in-law is the wife of Mr. Heriberto Cuadrado who left Cuba, from Pinar del Rio, in a small boat on September 19, 1963, and had not been seen since. Both Mr. Sale and Mrs. Delgado had relatives in Miami.

4. I explained that there was no possibility of ~~me~~ helping Mrs. Delgado leave Cuba.



(B. Hitch)
March 10, 1964

Mr. Maud *Mr*
" *now*
Hitch *A. Pal* 12/3
Enter and x

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(1081/64)

Embajada Británica

Habana.

Marzo 9, 1964.

Muchas gracias por su atenta visita del 5 de los corrientes.

He investigado detenidamente el asunto sobre el cual me habló y he sabido que si su hermano fué una de las personas involucradas en el incidente que supuestamente tuvo lugar en o alrededor del 21 de Febrero de 1963 en el Cayo Elbow de las Islas Bahamas, el Secretario de Estado de las Colonias hizo las siguientes declaraciones en relación con este incidente:

"Un grupo de miembros de la policía Bahamense y una unidad de la Armada Real, inspeccionaron las islas en las cuales se supone se produjo la abducción, no encontrando allí prueba alguna para confirmar el alegato, y no se ha suministrado ninguna otra evidencia convincente que pudiese servir como base para una acción por parte del Gobierno de Su Majestad."

Como observará por lo que antecede, no existen bases para que esta Embajada actúe en ningún sentido y, por lo tanto, lamento tener que comunicarle que no me es posible hacer ninguna otra gestión sobre el particular.

B. Hitch
Primer Secretario

Srta. Miriam Oviedo Alvarez
Bacuranao Real s/n,
Habana.

TRANSLATION OF LETTER SENT IN SPANISH

BRITISH EMBASSY,

HAVANA.

March 9, 1964.

(1081/64)

Thank you for calling on March 5.

I have now had time to investigate the matter about which you spoke to me, and I find that, if your brother was one of the men concerned in the incident which allegedly took place on or about 21st February 1963 at Elbow Key in the Bahamas Islands, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has made a statement about this incident which I quote below:

"A Bahamas police party and a unit of the Royal Navy investigated the islands from which the abduction is alleged to have taken place. They found no evidence in support of the allegation; and no other convincing evidence has been furnished which could form a basis for action by Her Majesty's Government"

You will see from the above that there is no basis for action by this Embassy, and I therefore regret that I am unable to help you further.

B. Hitch
First Secretary

Srta. Miriam Oviedo Alvarez,
Bacuranao Real s/n,
Habana.

Letter rejected by P.O. as
address unknown; but the
lady called to accept it
today JH
12/3

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,

HAVANA.

March 6, 1964.

(1081/64)

The Elbow Key case which greatly exercised us last year received a new lease of life today when two sisters of one of the eight men involved called at the Embassy.

2. I enclose a copy of my reply to one of them, which is based on the written answer at column 202 of Hansard for March 14, 1963, as mentioned in Foreign Office telegram to Washington No. 2841 of March 21, 1963.

3. As this issue is otherwise quite dead here, I am not copying this letter elsewhere. I believe the enquirer to have been prompted by a supposition that her brother's case was comparable with the Anguilla Key case last August, but I have not of course drawn attention to the possible ~~parallel~~ in my reply.

(B. Hitch)

J. M. Brown, Esq.,
American Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential

Minutes

1081/64

Elbow Key prisoners:

Mr. Maud and I received a visit this morning from two sisters of Mr. Eleno Oviedo Alvarez, Cuban citizen abducted, according to them, from the British territory of Elbow Key on February 23, 1963. The more talkative of the two sisters was surprisingly vague about the details, but her claim that her brother was one of the eight men captured there leaves little doubt that she is referring to the Elbow Key incident which was the subject of many telegrams on file 1081/63.

2. She claimed that her brother was still in prison and had not been brought to trial and asked whether the Embassy had any news of the incident. She took a reasonable attitude, but it was fairly clear that she considered her case to be on all fours with the Anguilla Key case of last ~~October~~ ^{Aug.} I asked her when she first approached the Embassy and though her recollection was vague, it seems that she did not come to us until after the August incident.

3. She is not the next-of-kin of Mr. Oviedo, both of whose parents are living, but she is clearly the spokesman and I promised her a reply. Her name is:

Miriam Oviedo Alvarez

and she lives at:

Bacuranao Real s/n,
Tel. 3-3103.

Baird

B. Hitch
March 5, 1964

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires

The above is unclassified.

2. *This is at least evidence that one at least of the 8 has not been executed.*
3. *We have washed our hands of this for lack of evidence, and we should not*

Confidential.

Tfor

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

get involved again now. I do not
think we need F.O. authority to
reply on the lines I have drafted.

Printed
5/3

Mr. Mandy

Hitch. d'A. Both seen letters
below X. 11/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax



COMPANIA QUE TIENE OFICINAS EN TODAS LAS CIUDADES Y PUEBLOS DE CUBA

BKC73 LHV175 FCW7 KKHN S LONDON LH 28/27 4 1251 OBGS

ETATPRIORITE PRODROME HABANA

14604 ADDRESS TO HAVANA TELNO 146 4/3 REPEATED
FOR INFORMATION HAVING TO WASHINGTON YOUR LETTER
1081/64 OF FEBRUARY 26 TO SLATER I AGREE

SOSFA

Reference at Flay 'A'
Presley 75's conversation
with R. Casanova was sufficient
action for the time being

Yes. No HIE

Philly 4/3

CAY SAL PRISONERS

Although we are having many visits from relatives of these prisoners, especially of those who are still detained in Cabaña Prison, I feel each interview should be recorded. Mrs. Maria Antonia Rodriguez Castillo, wife of Israel Rojas Delgado called this morning. Her domicile is Calle 10, No. 1713, Caibarién, Las Villas, but she is at present staying in Havana at Concepcion 58, apto 4 altos, Vibora.

2. She informed me that her husband's trial began on February 17 but was suspended after 1½ hours. She confirmed Mrs. Cabera's story that no reference was made to British territory in the accusations. No new date had been fixed for the resumption of the trial.

3. Her version of the story was that her husband had left Cuba for Miami on August 19, 1962 and he had gone to Cay Anguilla only to pick her up. He did not, in August last year, come as far as Cuba, but had met his wife at Cay Anguilla. He was a mechanic by trade.

4. I spoke to Mrs. Rodriguez on the usual lines. She has promised to let me know developments.

5. Two incidental points which emerged were that she thought some of the 19 were sufficiently rehabilitated now not to wish to leave even if given the opportunity, and that the local foreign correspondents were, as far as she and her friends could judge, were taking no interest in the case.

6. This talks well with HMC's minute

✓ Feb. 17 at FID.

B. Hitch

(B. Hitch)
March 2, 1964.

Regg: pp, pl.

H. H. C. 4/5
H. H. C.

I spoke to Dr. Corona yesterday about the Cay Sal prisoners among other things. I took the line in /my..

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

my letter of February 26, now authorised by F.O. telegram 146. Dr. Corona said this was a difficult problem.

The Prime Minister had told me that these people, or at any rate most of them, ~~would~~ be let out of gaol. But he had not, surely, promised me that they would leave Cuba. Moreover there were difficulties about letting these people go out on the charter service and jump the long queue of Cubans who wished to leave the country by more regular means and often had to wait for months.

I said that Dr. Castro had clearly understood my point that we wanted all these people to go back to the Bahamas, ~~and~~ ^{and had} said that he hoped to arrange this. He did not commit himself irrevocably but gave me the impression that it would be done. These people were in no way to be compared to Cuban citizens who wished to emigrate. They were people who were taken from the Bahamas by the armed forces of the Cuban Government in circumstances which we all knew. In order to avoid any misunderstanding I was quite willing to have these people, or such of them as wished to go, turned over formally to me; I would then make arrangements to return them to the Bahamas under the authority and control of this Embassy. Dr. Corona agreed to look at the situation again but said that difficulties had arisen.

J.W.

(J.H.A. Watson)
March 4, 1964

H of C *pal*

Mr. Hitch *10/3*

H.M. Gurney *DBF*
20.3.64

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,
HAVANA.

March 3, 1964.

(1081/64)

... I enclose a photostat of a letter we have received from Miss M.J. Macfarlane in the Consulate-General at Philadelphia, together with a copy of the original enquiry she received from a British citizen, presumably resident in the Philadelphia Consular District, about the Cay Sal prisoners.

2. Although I imagine you would see no objection to our replying direct to the Consulate General, any information we give might well find its way to the press or Congress and cause embarrassment. I should, therefore, be grateful if you could instruct the Consulate-General how to reply.

3. I suggest that the short answer might be that to the best of our knowledge all these prisoners are still in Cuba, some of them having been released; that we have no knowledge of any of them being executed; but that Her Majesty's Government is still negotiating a solution to the problem with the Cuban government. Unless you think that it would involve us too deeply, you might wish to ask for the name of the prisoner in whose case the enquirer is taking a special interest: but as we have really no idea at present of what success we shall have in getting all the prisoners out of Cuba, the less said the better.

... 4. I also enclose a copy of the interim reply I have sent to Miss Macfarlane.

(B. Hitch)

I.J.M. Sutherland, Esq.,
British Embassy,
WASHINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,

HAVANA.

February 29, 1964.

(1081/84)

Thank you for your letter 3241 of February 6 addressed to Consular Section and enclosing a copy of an enquiry about the Cay Sal prisoners.

2. We are anxious not to say too much about this at the moment, and in view of the danger of publicity all over the United States, I have sent a copy of your letter and its enclosure to Iain Sutherland in Washington, who will no doubt give you guidance on how to reply.

(B. Hitch)

Miss M.J. Macfarlane,
British Consulate General,
PHILADELPHIA 7, P.A.

CONFIDENTIAL

(3241)
MJM:EWM



1081/64
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
12 South 12th Street
PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

February 6, 1964

CONFIDENTIAL
BY BAG

Dear Consular Section,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to H. M. Consul General from a British Subject resident in our Consular District, and would be grateful for any information or guidance you can furnish to enable us to reply.

Yours ever,

May Macfarlane

(Miss M. J. Macfarlane)

Consular Section,
British Embassy,
Havana, Cuba

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. H. H. H. 2/2/64

*You may wish to reply.
This should go on
the Argentina Reg
file in Chancery
It is difficult to
answer since we
don't know the name
of the friend
J. B. F. 2/2/64*

FEB 17 1964

71 Sheffield Drive
Levittown, N.J.

February 9, 1964

Mr. Thomas Tull
Consulate General,
British Consul
12 S. Twelfth St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Tull,

I am writing this letter to you with the hope that you may be able to help me obtain the information I seek. The reason I am asking for your help is that I am a British citizen and also Britain is connected in the incident I am concerned with.

Last August, several Cuban refugees escaped to a British Island, Bel Key, in the Caribbean. They were kidnapped from this island by Cuban patrol boats and taken back to Havana where it was reported they were to be tried for treason. In November, steps were being taken to release these prisoners but since this time I have heard no further word on the matter.

My interest in this case is that I have reason to believe a friend of mine was among the prisoners taken from the island. I am particularly anxious to learn if these people are still being held in Cuba, if any of them have been executed, as reported, or if they have already been released.

Although you may be aware of the incident in question, I am sending you copies of the newspaper clippings on the subject. If you could possibly give me any help at all in this matter, or advise me where else I might go to obtain the information, I would indeed be very grateful.

Should you desire any further information and wish to contact me during the day, my telephone number is WOODLAWN 3-8000, Extn. JY-5087.

Sincerely,

Margaret C. Hart

Margaret C. Hart

Name

RESTRICTED

BRITISH EMBASSY,

HAVANA.

February 26, 1964.

(1081/64)

Would you please refer to recent correspondence about the Cay Sal prisoners resting with my telegram No. 103. I am taking the opportunity of a "non-confidential" bag by British aircraft to take the matter one stage further.

2. We have recently learned unofficially through the wife of the man concerned that the trial of at least one and perhaps all of the four prisoners who have not been released has started but has apparently been held up. According to our informant no mention was made of the accused having been taken away from British territory; it was alleged that he was captured in Cuban waters! The prosecution first asked for a 30 year sentence and subsequently for the death penalty since the offence was considered to be more serious.

3. There have recently been strong rumours that the trial was about to take place and we tend to believe the information given us. I therefore propose to return to the charge with the Cuban government on behalf of these four men on the grounds that we have always asked for the return of all 19 prisoners captured on Anguilla Cay. In this context, see the last operative paragraph of our Note of August 21, 1963 and paragraph 5 of our Note of October 4, 1963, which presumably intended to rebut the suggestion, contained in the opening paragraphs of the Cuban Note of September 10, that all the prisoners could legally be detained and tried in Cuba. Castro spoke of returning all the prisoners "perhaps gradually and discreetly". I have since made it clear (my telegram No. 896 of December 31) that we expect all the prisoners to be returned to British territory. On the other hand, we have never specifically repudiated the Cuban government's assertion of its right to treat the four men differently from the others and subject them to trial. Our aim must be the simple one of getting everyone out.

4. I should be grateful for a short telegram saying "I agree" if you do, or sending me alternative instructions if you do not.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Denis Greenhill in Washington.

(J. H. A. Watson)

R. N. K. Slater, Esq., C.M.G.,
American Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RESTRICTED

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Cay Sol Prisoners ^{Minutes}

One of the Cay Anguilla people who called to-day (I think it was the wife of Ricardo Lopez Cabrera) told Mr Fraser that the trial started, but has apparently been held up. No mention was made of the accused having been taken away from British territory - it was alleged that he was captured in Cuban waters.

The prosecution were seeking a 30 years' sentence but according to one of the lawyers, the offence is now considered as more serious and the death penalty is being sought.

Asked Mr Fraser to explain once again that

This Embassy cannot intervene in individual cases, and that so far no official reply has been received on the general issue.

If this report is accurate it looks as though the Cuban Govt. are not going to take any action about the question as a whole.

DB Forster
17.2.64

For. H. H. H.
18/2

I am not quite sure that H.M.C.'s last paragraph is necessarily so. But the Cuban Govt. is doing nothing to keep us informed of any of the 19 people concerned. We should not blind ourselves to the serious press and other repercussions of a trial resulting in one of these men being shot.

2. H.M.C. and I have agreed, subject to your approval, that a member of Chy. should see future visitors of this kind.
3. As we sent a tel yesterday about

Forster

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Confidential
Minutes

prisoners and as these reports are second or third hand, I do not think that action is called for. Let of Mrs. Lopez does not call again in, say, 10 days, we should probably invite her to the Embassy and ask her how the trial is getting on. If things look black for her husband, it is for consideration whether we should not report them to F.O. and seek further instructions just how much fuss we should make. Personally, I feel we should make a lot: the general state of Anglo-Cuban relations would stand it now if ever.

J.M.H.
18/2

H.C.

I of only the 4^{men} mentioned from the beginning by the Cubans as liable to trial on charges of sedition are involved, I do not think that we are in very strong ground to make a fuss. We have tacitly accepted the right of the Cubans to try these men and they have always been excluded - again tacitly - from the arrangements discussed for the others. But I agree that we should try to

Minutes

to find out what is going on
and that visitors of this
kind should be interviewed
by a member of Chanay.

HE

Pilled
18/2

I think we can make it clear
that whatever trials etc may
take place we want all 19
people released ^{two} and expect
the Cubans to arrange this in
their own way.

I made the point to
the chief of Protocol again last
night: and he agreed to give
the matter a push. I am sure
we must keep nagging.

HME
M.H.H.
no more
H.H.
20/2

Ans 19/2

Dft submitted, after discussion
with H of C. I have not
mentioned International Law; but
we let the Cubans have no right
to try these men (on the grounds
that judicially they are not here).

H of C Pilled
24/2
HE

H.H. Argued
24/2

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

(1081/64)

TELEGRAM

ROUTINE

Cypher ~~code~~ ~~enclair~~

From :— HAVANA

To :— FOREIGN OFFICE

Despatched 1730

Received

No. 103 of February 17

repeated for information to Washington (32) and Saving to the Governor of the Bahamas (Personal - 2).

Washington telegram No. 627 and your telegram No. 2509 to Washington.

Cay Sal prisoners.

Best information on number of prisoners released is still 14, not 15. But this is not official information from the Cuban Government who have told us nothing specific. Financial and other arrangements for handling these people in Bahamas and United States should cover all 19 against the admittedly remote possibility that all be allowed and wish to leave Cuba.

2. I do not expect any difficulty in notifying date and place of birth in due course. But until we get a firm Cuban reply about the prisoners now at liberty in Cuba it would be premature to collect this information.

3. I renewed to Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (see my telegram No. 85) our request that all 19 prisoners, including those still in prison, should be returned to the Bahamas. First Secretary also alluded to this request. We have had no specific reply. I see no objection to telling State Department this in confidence.

WATSON

CONFIDENTIAL

WFO 49068 Dd.D146 130M (in 3 sorts) 7/61 LP2403

(1081/64)

ROUTINE

TELEGRAM

~~xxCypherxxxxxx~~ en clair

From :—

WASHINGTON

To :— HAVANA

Despatched

Received

No. 27

of

February 17, 1964

Addressed to Foreign Office, telegram No. 691 of February 17, repeated for information to the Governor of the Bahamas and Havana.

Your telegram No. 2,509.

No objection.

GREENHILL

CONFIDENTIAL

(1081/64)

TELEGRAM

ROUTINE

Cypher ~~code xxxxxx en clair~~

From :— FOREIGN OFFICE

To :— HAVANA

Despatched

Received

No. 115

of

February 14, 1964

Addressed to Washington, telegram No. 2509 of February 14, repeated for information to Havana and Governor of the Bahamas (Personal).

Your telegram No. 627, paragraph 3.

We agree that fares from Havana to Nassau should be deposited with H.M. Consul Miami. It was our view that the prisoners should make their own way from Nassau to where-ever they wish to go and we did not therefore contemplate collecting any more from them than 50 dollars per head for the first leg of their journey. We should prefer to adhere to this plan unless you see any objection.

SOSFA

CONFIDENTIAL

Wt. 46068 Dd. D146 130M (in 3 sorts) 7/61 LP2403

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

Cay Sal Prisoners

I see from the telegrams that things
are still moving in the "CAR SAL"
prisoners by Balances Airways" affair.
Although these could be carried
by every flight, it would of
course, be preferable to send
them on a day when our courier
is coming in, rather than the
other way round. (For there is
bound to be some delay at the
airport and we would not want
our courier to miss his connection).
The convenient dates are therefore:

February 27,

March. 12

March. 26.

April 9.

SPH 17/2

Mr. Hitchcock

Thank you: noted. But things
have not got to this stage yet.

SPH
17/2

FW Godes 8/18/2
PW. and X

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

TELEGRAMCypher ~~codexxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

From :— FOREIGN OFFICE

To :— HAVANA

Despatched

Received

No. 103

of

February 12, 1964

Following received from Bahamas.

Addressed to Colonial Office, telegram No. 6 personal of February 11, repeated for information to Washington and Havana No. 17.

Your telegram No. 14 personal (repeating Havana to Foreign Office No. 85). Cay Sal prisoners.

With reference to paragraph 2 of Havana telegram of February 7 addressed to Foreign Office, telegram No. 85, I confirm if the prisoners are returned to the Bahamas they will not be tried or arrested and will be allowed to proceed to the United States.

2. I assume none would wish to remain in the Bahamas and that they would be admitted to the United States.

SOSFA

Good By

CONFIDENTIAL and PERSONAL

TELEGRAMCypher ~~code XXXXX on clear~~

ROUTINE

From:— HAVANA

To:— FOREIGN OFFICE

Despatched 1130

Received

No. 85 of February 6, 1964.

repeated for information to Washington (24) and Personal to Governor of Bahamas (1).

Your telegram no 43 [of January 21] (not to all addressees).

Cay Sal prisoners.

Although the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that he sees no objection to our taking the 15 former prisoners now at liberty out on the diplomatic charter aircraft to Nassau, Desk Officer told First Secretary today that this stage had not been reached and that the matter was still under consideration. On the assumption that this arrangement will eventually materialise, there are a number of questions to which I should like an answer before I get in touch with the liberated prisoners.

2. In the first place, I do not know how many will want to go in the face of the Cuban government's efforts to resettle them here. It would make us look rather silly if none or very few were prepared to return to the Bahamas. Their individual decisions will be affected by what is likely to happen to them when they reach Nassau. I presume I can say that they will not be tried or arrested in the Bahamas, but will be allowed to go to the United States if they wish. Can the Governor please confirm urgently that such an assurance is in order?

3. A further point is that some of these refugees may not have valid Cuban passports. I hope that in such circumstances it would be possible to arrange their onward passage to the United States. We have asked so firmly for these prisoners to be allowed to /return to

CONFIDENTIAL

return to the Bahamas that it would be difficult to refuse to take them because they do not have valid Cuban passports. There is also the question of recovering costs. When it is known how many prisoners wish to go, could Her Majesty's Embassy at Washington approach the organisations concerned and obtain an assurance of repayment both of the dollars 50 a head for the charter flight journey from here to Nassau and also for the cost of onward transport to the United States? Could Her Majesty's Embassy also obtain an assurance from the United States authorities that in fact these prisoners will be admitted into the United States if they want to go there?

4. It seems to be important to avoid publicity about this operation until we know that at any rate some of the prisoners concerned will be allowed to make the journey proposed above and are prepared to do so. Any approach now to the refugee organisations in Washington or Nassau would certainly result in a leak.

WATSON

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

Cay Sal (i.e. Anguilla Cay) Prisoners

I called on Dr. Oscar Oramas, Head of the Northern European section of the Western European Department of the M.F.A. this morning.

2. I began by stating my understanding of the arrangement made between H.E. and the Vice Minister Arnol Rodriguez Camps last week that the diplomatic charter service could be used to take to the Bahamas all or any of the Anguilla Cay prisoners now at liberty, while we reserved our position on the 5 still in prison. I expressed the hope that this part of the settlement could now be brought from the political to the administrative plane.

3. Dr. Oramas could not agree even in principle that such an arrangement had been made firm between the Ambassador and the Vice Minister, and confined himself throughout, charmingly and apologetically, to saying that he was authorised only to tell me that the entire matter was still being studied and that he would call on me as soon as he had any news. I expressed disappointment and said I hoped that this aspect of the affair could be settled quickly. February 24 had been mentioned as a possible date, but this was probably too soon and in any case owing to the new timetable we had no plane then. We hoped that the Cubans would agree that all those wishing to leave should be asked to go on one flight and I pointed out the publicity disadvantages to the Cubans in having the press interview these people one by one over a long period. Dr. Oramas agreed.

4. My visit was followed half-an-hour later by an invitation to lunch tomorrow.

5. In the light of the above, I have re-cast H.E.'s draft telegram.

B. Hitch
(B. Hitch)

February 6, 1964

H. of C.

H. E. O. R.

20-2

CONFIDENTIAL

(1081/64)

TELEGRAM

ROUTINE

Cypher ~~code~~ ~~enclainx~~

From :— FOREIGN OFFICE

To :— HAVANA

Despatched

Received

No. 43 of January 21, 1964

Your letter 1081/64 of January 11 to Slater.

We do not think that there is any case for the cost of removing the prisoners from Cuba falling on us. If you can obtain the agreement of the Cuban authorities to the prisoners being sent to Nassau on charter service we would then ask H.M. Embassy to arrange fares to be collected from relatives or refugee organizations. Prisoners would make their own way from Nassau.

SOSFA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(1081/64)

TELEGRAM

PRIORITY

Cypher ~~code~~ ~~enclaire~~

pl
23/1

From:— HAVANA

To:— FOREIGN OFFICE

Despatched 1030

Received

No. 39 of January 16, 1964

repeated for information to Washington (12) and Saving to Governor of Bahamas (Personal) (1)

Washington telegram No. 177 to you.

CAY SAL.

Details are in my telegram No. 1 Saving repeated to Washington by air freight bag which left here on January 13.

2. I agree that relatives in U.S. should learn the position. But Cuban government are sensitive on this issue. Ashman is known to them. He has been unhelpful to us in the past. I hope it will not be necessary for us to be seen as helping to build him up.

3. I believe chances of getting Cuban government to accede to H.M.G.'s demand that they should send these people out of Cuba (which is desirable for political as well as humanitarian reasons) will be better if H.M. Embassy Washington could give names to the press without attribution to British sources; or else to State Department for release in a similar way. Such a statement could say that five not released are still alive and in prison.

Foreign Office please pass to Governor of Bahamas personal Saving telegram No. 1.

WATSON

CONFIDENTIAL

Wt. 46068 Dd. D146 130M (in 3 sorts) 7/61 LP2403

RESTRICTED

BRITISH EMBASSY,

HAVANA.

January 11, 1964.

(1081/64)

Your telegram no. 3 of January 2 about the Cay Sal prisoners says that I can make arrangements for these prisoners to leave Cuba, provided there is no expense to Her Majesty's Government.

2. As you will see from my Saving telegram no. 1 of yesterday's date, all but 5 of the prisoners are out of gaol. It is difficult for me to deal on this subject with anyone but Castro himself; but I gather from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that all the prisoners who are released are likely to be allowed to leave for Nassau. The only practical means of arranging this is to put them, when the time comes, on our diplomatic charter service, by special arrangement with the Cuban government as being not ordinary passengers but persons travelling by decision of the two governments. I now feel fairly sure that the Cuban government will not in fact agree to paying the charter group \$50.00 a head. We can hardly refuse to get these people out of Cuba on the ground that we are not prepared to take them on a flight which is going anyway, on which there is space, unless the Cuban government ante up. We have insisted that fares on this flight must be paid in hard currency, and the released prisoners will not have the necessary funds themselves. Unless you think that it would be possible to ask some refugee Cuban organization or other charity to pay the passages (which is surely a little beneath the dignity of Her Majesty's Government?) I think we may have to absorb the net cost of paying for these people on the charter service.

3. Our understanding with other Embassies is that there will be a charge of \$50.00 to each Embassy which sends a passenger in either direction. But of course the residual cost to Her Majesty's Government of the service is reduced if more payload is carried. It is not possible at this stage to say exactly what saving there will be.

4. I should be grateful to learn by telegram whether I am authorised to take these people out on our charter service at our expense if that seems the only practical way of getting them out of Cuba. You can naturally count on us to do what we can to avoid incurring this charge.

(J.H.A. Watson)

R.M.K. Slater, Esq., C.M.G.,
American Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

RESTRICTED

(1081/64)

SAVING

TELEGRAM

~~CYPHAR XXXX CODE~~ en clair

From :— HAVANA

To :— FOREIGN OFFICE

Despatched BY BAG

Received

No. 1 of January 10, 1964

repeated for information Saving to Washington (2), Governor Bahamas (1) and Commander British Forces Caribbean Area (2).

CAY SAL:

Castro told me briefly at a New Year Reception that he was considering my latest representation (reported in my telegram no. 896 of December 31). I have noted the instructions in your telegram no. 3. I will discuss the subject with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs early next week.

2. I now learn that 11 adults were released on Christmas Eve with 3 infant children. Their names are:

- Yolanda Rodrigues Barreras
- Edelmira Madera Monteagudo
- ✓ Rene Rodriguez Esquia +
- ✓ Maria Antonia Rodriguez Castillo
- Miriam Olga Miranda Prieto (plus one child)
- Alberto Aleman Bocareye
- Jose Augusto Hernandez Arena
- Jose Antonio Servia Flores
- Narciso Salibrup Izaguirre
- Maria Alonso Sambrena ZAMBRAÑA
- Haydee Ramos Fleitas (plus two children)

3. Released prisoners are allowed to communicate with their relatives in the United States, and at least one has done so. I therefore agree that we should not become involved as intermediaries between these people and their relatives outside Cuba.

/4. The ...

4. The Cuban authorities are encouraging the released prisoners to settle down in Cuba and have given them unusual help with matters like employment and ration cards. But my information is that most if not all of them will leave Cuba if they can.

5. The names of the prisoners still held are:

Israel Rojas Delgado

Osmani Nodas González

Francisco Berrío Monzón + BEREITO

- Gregorio Hernández (Fernandez + (Reverse last two

- Ricardo Lopez Cabrera +

The released prisoners report that those still detained can receive visitors twice a month; and that the public prosecutor has asked for the death penalty in the case of Ricardo Lopez Cabrera.

WATSON

names)

Mr. Minniz

Sept 15

26 Aug
9 Sept

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

ANGUILLA CAY

My minute of 8.1.64. and gave the names of the five prisoners who are still detained and for whom the death sentence has been claimed

The names of the 11 adults who were released on 24.12.1963 are:

- Barreras*
1. Yolanda Rodriguez ~~Barreras~~
 2. Edelmira Madera Monteagudo
 3. Rene Rodriguez Esquia
 4. Maria Antonia Rodriguez Castillo
 5. Miriam Olga Miranda Prieto
 6. Alberto Aleman Bocareye
 7. Jose Augusto Hernandez Arena
 8. Jose Antonio Servia Flores
 9. Narciso Salicrup Izaguirre
 10. Maria Alonso Sambrena
 11. Haydee Ramos Fleitas

No.5 on the above list was accompanied by one child, and No.11 by two children, who were released with their mothers. This information accounts for the 19 prisoners as follows:

Released on 24.11.63.	11 Adults
" "	3 children
Still detained	5
Total	<u>19</u>

The above information was given by Maria Antonia Rodriguez Castillo, (the wife of Israel Rojas Delgado who is one of the five still detained). She brought in the "Petición" by the Courts against 12 of the prisoners, (Causa No.535 de 1963). The twelfth person included in the "Petición" is Ricardo Lopez Cabrera, who is still detained.

The penalty claimed for the twelve concerned is 18 years imprisonment. Nevertheless, Ricardo Lopez Cabrera ~~is~~ was not released, and it has been reported that the death penalty is now claimed against him.

The Number of the "Petición" against the other four prisoners who are still detained is 536.

Sra. Rodriguez asked me to thank you for what has been done so far to obtain the release of the 11

H.M.A.

January 10, 1964.

Didier Fontes

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

+this is the
man who called
on 6.1.64.

Tejadillo 13
Havana

Frente al
Ayuntamiento

see also
minute below
about Sr. Cabrea

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

ANGUILLA CAY

Sr. Narciso SALICRUP, the first ex-prisoner who got into touch with us, called at my request on 8.1.1964.

He was unable to give me the names of all the men who have been released, but mentioned the following:

+
2 René Esqui and his wife
1 Mario R. Alonso
1 Alberto Alemá
1 José Antonio Serviat

With Sr. Salicrup himself, this accounts for six people

Sr. Solierup was followed after his visit to our offices on 30.12.63. Later he was visited by a couple of officials who ~~xxxxxxx~~ promised him to accompany him to his former employers and see that his job is restored to him. (He had previously been in contact with his employers and had ~~xxx~~ been received rather coldly). The officials also helped him to fix up his ration card problems with MINCIN. They are clearly anxious to do everything possible to see that ~~th~~ Sr. Solierup at any rate settles down again.

Nevertheless, he asked again whether ~~xxxxxxx~~ he and his colleagues are to be returned to the Bahamas. I said that as we still had not received an official reply to our Note, I assumed that this question was still open.

He expressed appreciation again of this Embassy's action, and asked me to thank Y.E. He will be happy to give us any other information that he can.

Sr. Solierup promised to get into touch with Sr. Esqui, and ask him to call here this morning in order to see whether he can complete the list of names. Sr. Esqui ~~xxxxxx~~ has not yet come in, and I am therefore not able to provide the information in time to catch to-day's Bag with a Saving Tel.

Sr. Solierup has informed his relatives in Miami about his release, and so far as he knows no difficulties have been made about the ex-prisoners communicating with relatives abroad. Those whose relatives are here have of course been returned to their homes. Those who are still in prison can receive visitors twice a month.

H. M. ~~xxxx~~ 9/1
Mr. Hitt

D. L. F. Forrest
8.1.1964.

Y.E.

Y.C. may feel that, unless some-
thing comes into today's bag, we
must ask for better instructions from
Fo than those ~~detained~~ contained in
Fo Tel No 3 of Jan. 2 (below).
Could not the matter now be informally
linked with the Highlands deal?

Being
9/1

H.C. again

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

1081/64

Minutes

Narciso SALICRUP IZAGUIRRE
264 Cortena
Vibora
Havana.

4-3513-
Salicrup

most of

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

One of the Key Anguila prisoners who called on 30.12.1963 to inform us that he, and the other prisoners, had been released on 24.12.1963, with the exception of five. One man who had escaped from Cuba, Ricardo Lopez Cabrera, is still held, and four of those from Miami. They are at La Cabaña prison. He fears Lopez Cabrera will be shot.

2. They were not brought to trial. According to Sr. Salicrup, the trial has been suspended. The prisoners released were suddenly summoned by name on 24.12.1963 and told to get ready to leave. They were taken back to their homes in a closed and armed bus. They were warned not to talk about their experiences, and Sr. Salicrup says he is being watched closely.

3. He has been told to return to his work on January 3. He is employed at the Banco Nacional, Agencia Central.

4. The authorities said nothing to the prisoners about sending them out of the country. Sr. Salicrup wanted to know if we could help him to get out. He asked if he could not be extradited. I told him that we have no jurisdiction to intervene with the Cuban authorities on behalf of Cuban citizens who wish to leave Cuba. I dodged the Extradition issue because I have not seen the Extradition Treaty between the U.K. and Cuba, and do not know whether the Cuban prisoners have committed an offence which would be covered by the Treaty. (The F.S.I., Chapter XVII, Annex 1, page 6, show A Treaty dated 3.10.1974, an Exchange of Notes dated 18.2.1910, a Convention dated 17.4.1930, and an Exchange of Notes dated 26.3.1935 dealing with Extradition, which apparently cover the United Kingdom and the Colonies).

5. The conditions in the prison were horrible. There were no beds for the recently arrived prisoners, and some 120/130 men were sleeping on the floor, in a damp room with no ventilation. The room was alive with vermin. There was only one W.C. for all of them. They have had only one meal a day since the Hurricane. Prisoners who are tried are removed from this detention room after they have been sentenced.

6. Sr. Salicrup reported that there are 8 men still detained from Key (?Aberqui) in horrible conditions.

....

Minutes

7. I told him that my personal advice was to keep quiet, start work again as he had been instructed to do, and if he wished to leave Cuba, try to arrange this in the normal way in conjunction with his relatives who he says are in the U.S.A.

8. Sr. Salierup wanted to thank this Embassy for having approached the Cuban authorities.

Walded Forrester

30.12.63

~~H. C. A.~~

H. C. A.

*This information was v.
useful in my conversation at
the R.F.A. yesterday.*

Now see my Tel ... 15.12.

Dr

31/12

Dr Hitch

6/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CAY SAL

This is a complex problem. I shall have to go on struggling with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to see whether they will send out, or allow out, the 11 men they have released, and also to try to find out more about the other 8.

Meanwhile we must be careful to say nothing to the ex-prisoners or others which implies that we accept any financial responsibility for these prisoners, or on the

Minutes.

other hand that we have no
right or legal standing to ask
for all of them to be sent back
to the Bahamas. We have no right
to interfere about their treatment
here, but have every right to
get them sent back and are
in fact asking for this. There
is a danger that what we say to
individuals may get back to the
Cuban Govt and weaken our
case.

Draft telegram to FO.

Ans 6/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Tejadillo 13
La Habana

Frente al
Ayuntamiento

Minutes

ANGUILLA CAY

Sr. René Rodríguez Esqui, one of the men who were released on December 24, 1963, called to-day to ask

(a) what The British authorities were proposing to do about those who have been released

(b) what we could do about the five who are still held, and who have been sentenced to death.

The five are:

- ✓ Israel Rojas Delgado
- ✓ Osmani Nodas Gonzalez
- ✓ Francisco Bereijo Monzón
- ✓ Gregorio Hernandez Fernandez
- ✓ Ricardo Lopez Cabrera.

2. I told Sr. Rodríguez that This Embassy has no jurisdiction, and indeed no reason, to intervene with the Cuban authorities about those who have been set free. My personal advice to them was to return to their normal lives and do nothing to attract attention to themselves.

3. In so far as the five remaining prisoners are concerned, I doubted whether anything more could be done than had been done already when our Note was sent about the whole group. We certainly could not intervene in individual cases. Sr. Rodríguez and his colleagues seem to be under the impression that the suspension of the legal proceedings against them took place at the direct request of this Embassy, and that we might be prepared to stop the proceedings in the other cases also (there are two separate lawsuits, one against Lopez Cabrera, and the other against the first four in the above list).

4. Sr. Rodríguez used the word "reclamar", but I pointed out that there could be no question of this. The most that might be possible would be "rogar", but I could not say whether you would be in a position to take any further action, though I promised to let you know that this approach had been made on behalf of the unfortunate men who are still detained. So far as I knew, this Embassy had not yet received any official reply to the Note which was sent to the Cuban authorities, and had only learned of the releases from some of the individuals concerned.

W. H. A. Fowles

H. M. A.

January 6, 1964.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

TELEGRAM

(1081)

Cypher ~~radioxxxxxair~~

From:— HAVANA

To:— FOREIGN OFFICE

Despatched

Received

No. 896

of

December 31, 1963

Repeated Saving to: Washington (94), Governor of the Bahamas (43) and CBFGA (3).

My telegram No. 891.

Cay Sal.

In spite of Castro's message reported in my telegram under reference, 11 of the prisoners were released in Havana on December 24 and have been advised by the Cuban authorities to take up employment here. One of them called at H.M. Consulate to ask about proceeding to the Bahamas and was given a noncommittal reply.

2. Yesterday a Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs sent for me and said he had been instructed by the Prime Minister to tell me that 11 of these Cuban prisoners had been set free. The dossiers of the remainder were still under active study. He said the Prime Minister had acted in this way in order to improve Anglo Cuban relations and hoped to see me in the new year. I expressed satisfaction of the release from gaol of 11 of these men, but I said that HMG's request was that they should all be returned to British territory and that it seemed a pity that this decision had been taken without enabling me to give HMG's reply to what Castro had told me. Deputy Minister said he supposed the question of return to British territory was still open. He expressed appreciation of the measures recently taken by HMG to prevent attacks on Cuba from British territory.

3. If the Cuban government

a) agree to send some or all of these prisoners to Nassau at Cuban expense by DC-3 of Diplomatic charter service;

or b) allow them to leave Cuba by whatever means they can find;

should I make the necessary arrangements?

WATSON

Wt.46068 Dd.D146 130M (in 3 sorts) 7/61 LP2403

CONFIDENTIAL

Number:

Incident at Anguilla Cay, Cay Sal, Bahamas: kidnapping of Cuban refugees by Cuban government. January 1-December 31, 1964. TS Refugee Records from the Foreign Office, 1947-1970 FO 277/269. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).